the forest villages as a pilot project; and

(c) if so, what are the main features of the proposed scheme and the quantum of Central aid provided to the States Government in implementing the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes Sir. The State of Madhya Pradesh has prepared an Environmental Forestry Scheme involving a cost of Rs. 1.50 crores.

(b) and (c) The scheme is intended to create strip and block plantations in the major cities and towns and is in progress. The scheme is funded from the State Plan and no separate Central assistance is given.

Molestation Incidents in Delhi

2497. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that increasing number of incidents of molestation of women/girl students both in Delhi Transport Corporation buses and outside has been reported in Delhi during the last two-three months; and

(b) if so, what preventive steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Strict watch is kept over the activities of bad elements. Close watch is made near the sensitive educational institutions, women's colleges/ etc. Legal action is taken against the culprits after receiving such complaints. Surprise checking is done in D.T.C. buses to avoid such incidents. Police patrolling by beat and division staff and in plain cloths has been intensified. The D. T C. have opened various Complaints Cells with telephone numbers to lodge complaints on phone or in writing. Disciplinary action is taken against the erring conductors and drivers of D.T.C. buses.

Botanical Garden in Seshachalam Hills, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh

2498. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minster of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether there is any proposal to set up a botanical garden in Seshachalam Hills Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z R. ANSARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present there is no scheme for setting up botanic gardens in different parts of the country.

Articles missing from Golden Temple Complex

2499. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two most valuable possessions are missing since May, 1988 from the Sikh Museum in the Golden Hemple Complex;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have made any efforts to trace the missing articls and if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Facts are being ascertained from the Government of Punjab and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Proposal to set up a Small Industry Bank

@2500. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up a Small Indusry Bank;

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal; and

(c) by when it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) Government is considering to set up a Small Industries Development Bank of India as a Subsidiary of the Industrial Development Bank of India to cater to the financial needs of small scale and tiny sector industries. The equity of the new bank would be Rs. 250 crores. Suitable steps for setting up of the Bank are being taken.

Memorandum from Tirumala-Tirupati Devasthanam for tax relief

2501. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any memorandum from Tirumala-Tirupati Devasthanam for tax relief; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken on the said memorandum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Yes Sir, Thirumala Tirupati Devasthanam has sent a memorandum for continuing the exemption from payment of income-tax in the wake of the deletion by the Direct Tax Laws (Amendment) Act, 1987 with effect from 1-4-1989 of section 10(23C) (iv)/(v) of the Income-tax Act under which the exemption was granted to the Devasthanam.

(b) According to the statement made in the Parliament on 5th September, 1988, the position of income-tax exemption in respect of religious and charitable trusts and institutions would continue to be the same till 31-3-1990 *i.e.* assessment year 1989-90 as it was before the Direct Tax Laws (Amendment) Act, 1987. The issues raised in various representations received on this point have been examined by the Government and the decisions thereon will be reflected in the proposed Direct Tax Laws (Amendment) Bill.

Training to staff for Probationary Officers' Examinations in SBI

2502. PROF. (MRS.) ASIMA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Bank of India has recently formulated a scheme whereunder intensive pre-examination training would be given to the candidates belonging to the Muslim, Sikh, Christian and other communities so as to equip them for the examination to be shortly held for recruitment to the posts of Probationary Officers in the Bank; and

(b) if so, what are the considerations on which such a scheme has

@ Previously unstarred question 2048, transferred from the 28th November, 1988.